

Eastern Region Public Affairs, 2714 N. Mayfair, Spokane, WA 99207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I-90 paving and safety project to get underway in west Spokane County

Contractor crews will begin work on Monday, March 7th on a section of Interstate 90 in western Spokane County. This paving and safety project will stretch from the Lincoln/Spokane County border to the SR 902/Salnave Road Interchange, a distance of about 10 miles. Items on the schedule beginning Monday will consist of preliminary tasks.

As in past years, the primary purpose of this project is to resurface the roadway to eliminate studded tire ruts and general pavement wear and tear. In addition, whenever a section of interstate freeway is resurfaced, the highway must be brought up to the latest safety standards for slopes and obstructions within the median and shoulder "clear zone." This clear zone requirement was adjusted several years ago when the speed limit was raised from 60mph to 70mph. That requirement prohibits obstructions within 41 feet of the fog line.

To meet these standards, the project will include reshaping portions of the median and shoulder areas by removing low-lying rock formations and moving the outside shoulder rock faces back from the travel lanes.

The Department will not remove the tall rock formations in the median. These will be protected with a gravel berm.

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Trees in some areas of the median and shoulder are also within the clear zone and can present a safety hazard to motorists. Plus, not only are these trees a potential collision hazard, but, in many areas they shade the roadway during winter months creating icy conditions.

Approximately 5% to 10% of the trees in this section will be removed to meet the safety standards.

The resurfacing work includes grinding out most of the existing asphalt surface in the driving lanes to a depth of about two inches then repaving with new asphalt of the same thickness. The travel lanes and shoulders will then receive a coating of asphalt oil, known as a "fog seal." The asphalt layer provides a new driving surface and smoother ride for motorists and the fog seal protects the roadway structure by preventing water from seeping through the surface to gravel layers below.

This entire project will take about three months to complete. While roadwork is underway, motorists will experience periods of lane restrictions on both eastbound and westbound Interstate 90 in this area. When these lane restrictions are in effect, the legal speed limit will be reduced to 55 mph. These legal speed reductions will be noted on signs when they are in force. In addition, during blasting operations, all traffic will be stopped until material is cleared and it is safe to proceed, usually within 10 to 15 minutes. These intermittent blasting operations and associated road closures are planned to take place prior to 7:00 a.m. to limit traffic impacts and motorist inconvenience.

Inland Asphalt Company of Spokane is the prime contractor on this project. Their bid for this for this construction work was \$2,080,080.

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